

English E/III-A Reading Instruction and Practice Activities

Expressions: Semi-Fixed

Today we are going to work with Semi-Fixed Expressions. Semi-fixed expressions are similar to fixed expressions, but one or several of the words can be changed. The change is in order to make the expression fit exactly with the situation.

Semi-Fixed Expressions
Hi, Tom, I <i>haven't seen you</i> <u>in ages</u> .
<i>in a while.</i>
<i>forever.</i>
What was really <u>interesting</u> was . . .
<i>surprising</i>
<i>annoying</i>

The difficulties with understanding and using semi-fixed expressions are similar with the fixed expressions which we looked at last week. First, you need to be able to recognize the expression and all the words which go with that expression. Next, you need to be able to understand any "special" meaning the phrase might have. Finally, you should try to identify which part of the phrase is changeable. This is important so that you can recognize it again if you come across it in the future.

Activity 1 Circle the semi-fixed expression(s) in the following sentences. Underline the word(s) in the expression that can be changed.

- My father was a very serious man and he always thought it was necessary to teach me the importance of hard work.
- It's amazing that even at the beginning of the 21st century there are many people who suffer from hunger.
- I have live here for many years; however, I still am amazed at the differences between Japanese and American people.
- After studying hard for almost three weeks, Bob couldn't believe just how hard the TOEFL test was.
- My mother is always complaining about something. Sometimes I find it very difficult to deal with her.
- Suzy is so silly. She really likes to think of herself as a beauty queen, but the fact is that her beauty is just a figment of her imagination.

Activity 2 Write a sentence using the following semi-fixed expressions. You will need to change the word(s) in **bold italics**.

Semi-Fixed Expression	Your Sentences
1. the importance of <i>hard work</i>	_____ _____
2. to suffer from <i>hunger</i>	_____ _____
3. the difference between <i>Japanese</i> and <i>American people</i>	_____ _____
4. couldn't <i>believe</i> just how <i>hard the TOEFL test</i> was	_____ _____
5. <i>difficult</i> to deal with <i>her</i>	_____ _____
6. to think of <i>herself</i> as <i>a beauty queen</i>	_____ _____

Reading-in-Detail Activities

Activity 3 Reading Aloud With your group, read today's articles *out loud*. Take turns reading the articles sentence by sentence. Try to read each sentence from start to finish as smoothly as possible. Don't read like a robot and don't use KATAKANA ENGLISH.

Activity 4 In this week's article, find five **semi-fixed expressions**. Then, write the sentence they were in, circle the semi-fixed expression, underline the changeable word(s) and then write a Japanese translation of the expression. You need to translate only the expression - not the whole sentence.

In this week's article, find five **semi-fixed expressions**. Then, write the sentence they were in, circle the expression, underline the changeable word(s) and then write a Japanese translation of the expression. You need only the expression - not the whole sentence.

Sentence from read passage (circle semi-fixed expression)	Japanese Translation of Expression
1. _____ _____	_____
2. _____ _____	_____
3. _____ _____	_____
4. _____ _____	_____
5. _____ _____	_____

Activity 5 Group Discussion For the time remaining, discuss the following questions with your group. I expect everyone to participate by stating their opinions on each question, showing agreement or disagreement with your classmates opinions, and asking questions whenever you feel necessary. All discussions, must be in ENGLISH! If you get stuck and can't say what is in on your mind, ask your classmates or me for help.

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1. How do Spanish men and women compare to men and women in Japan?
2. How is housework divided in Japanese homes?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of separating household work into "women's work" and "men's work"?
4. Are younger Japanese changing the attitude toward housework? Why/Why not?
5. What jobs OUTSIDE the home are men or women most suitable for? (ex. Would a man or woman make the better nursery school teacher?)
6. Are there any jobs that men or women should absolutely NOT do?
7. If you were re-born today, which would you rather be: a man or a woman? Why?
8. (your question) _____?

Activity 7 Discussion Summary Take a few minutes and think about what you and your groupmates discussed in class. Then, write a summary of your discussion. Please use all the space available.

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Score: ____/10

[illegible]